



June 2017



U.S. DISTRICT CLERK'S COURTERLY

New Employees: Please welcome the following new employees to the District:

Katie Grant - CHEYENNE– Financial Administrator
Jordan Karabetsos - CHEYENNE– Financial Specialist
Crystal Toner - CASPER - Generalist Deputy Clerk

The District of Wyoming Enters Into Judge Sharing Pilot Program with the District of New Mexico

The District of Wyoming and the District of New Mexico have entered into a judge sharing pilot program. This is a three year national pilot program with the goal of assisting District Courts with large case loads. For at least twenty years, the District of Wyoming and the District of New Mexico have informally participated in a form of judge sharing, where Wyoming has shared its judicial resources with New Mexico.

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding, two judges in the District of Wyoming will be randomly assigned civil cases from New Mexico's civil case assignment wheel. The Wyoming Judges will be responsible for the New Mexico cases from filing to disposition, trial, appeal, or remand. Most of the proceedings will be conducted by telephone or video conferencing. If a final pretrial or trial is necessary, the Wyoming Judge will travel to New Mexico to handle the matter. Wyoming Magistrate Judges will also travel to New Mexico for settlement conferences. The Memorandum of Understanding expires in three years.

The Wyoming Chapter of the Federal Bar Association Presents the: 13th Annual Tri-State Conference October 5-7, 2017 Jackson Hole, Wyoming

http://www.wyd.uscourts.gov/pdf/forms/tristate/Tri-state_Brochure_2017.pdf

FAMOUS WYOMINGITES:

James Bridger (trapper, guide) Dick Cheney (former Vice President), Buffalo Bill Cody (scout), Curt Gowdy (sportscaster) James G. Watt (secretary of the interior) Nellie Taylor Ross (first woman elected governor) and Pete Williams (NBC News Correspondent)

Do you have a nomination for the Sidebar? Please contact Tiffany at the clerk's office in Casper (307)232-2620

Our Mission: Every employee appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming will make it their mission to serve the Public, Bar and Court, to represent the District of Wyoming in a manner that will instill trust in the Judiciary and strive to provide quality, positive service, and assist in the timely and satisfactory disposition of issues brought before the court.



Court Amends Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Plan

The Court has amended its District CJA Plan after comments from CJA panel attorneys. Significant amendments include the establishment of staggered terms for members of the CJA panel. Initially attorneys will be assigned to one of three groups on a random basis. Members of the first group will continue to serve on the CJA panel for a term of one year, members of the second group will continue to serve on the CJA panel for a term of two years, and members of the third group will continue to serve on the CJA panel for a term of three years. CJA panel members must apply for reappointment at least two months prior to the expiration of their term. In considering whether to reappoint the panel member, the CJA Administrator and Committee will seek input concerning the quality of member's representation, ensure the panel member has completed the required training and CLE, determine whether the member has been subject to complaints, and whether the member continues to meet the prerequisites and obligations for CJA panel membership as required by the Plan.

The amendments to the Plan also require panel members to obtain training and relevant CLE. Specifically, members are expected to attend training provided by the Federal Public Defender's Office and are required to annually obtain 6 hours of CLE relevant to federal criminal practice. The amendments to the Plan also require panel members to have necessary facilities, resources, and technological capabilities to manage assigned cases and to comply with the requirements of electronic filing and eVoucher.

The Plan will go to the Tenth Circuit for approval before becoming effective.

Court Proposes Amendments to Local Civil Rules

The Federal District Court for the District of Wyoming has proposed amendments to its Local Civil Rules. These amendments include changes to comply with the December 1 2016 amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Other notable changes include, but are not limited to, amendment to Local Rule 16.3(b) allowing parties to make an *ex parte* request for a settlement conference, amendment to Rule 5.1(g) to require parties in civil cases to obtain permission before filing documents as non-public, and amendment to Rule 37.1(b) to incorporate the current administrative order requiring parties to jointly contact the appropriate judge's chambers for approval before filing a written discovery motion. A copy of all the proposed revisions in redline form can be found at http://www.wyd.uscourts.gov/pdfforms/Local_Rules_Civil_Red_Line.pdf.

The Court invites written comments regarding the proposed amendments. Written comments will be accepted if they are mailed by Friday, June 16, 2017. Comments may be mailed to:

**Clerk of Court
Attention: Proposed Rules Changes
P.O. Box 1348
Cheyenne, WY 82003**



COURT IS NOW IN SESSION



Each Spring, the Ewing T. Kerr Courthouse is the host for St. Anthony School 5th grade students as they conduct a mock trial under the direction of Casper College Paralegal Program Director, Mary Kubichek. This year their case was High School Student Chris Moss vs the New Columbia Public School District. Mary Kubichek emphasizes that these mock trials incorporate social sciences, public speaking and research skills. Students portray witnesses, lawyers and interact with a jury made up of parents as well as Casper College paralegal students.



Naturalization Ceremonies held in the District of Wyoming

On May 8th 2017, 26 people from 14 different countries gathered in the Wheeler Music Hall on the campus of Casper College for the May naturalization ceremony. Beneath the bright lights, the petitioners for citizenship sat on the stage across from the Honorable Judge Scott W. Skavdahl alongside Deputy Clerks Tiffany Dyer and Crystal Toner, and Court Reporter Anne Bowline. The Natrona County High School JROTC Color Guard presented the colors following a powerful acapella version of the *Star Spangled Banner* performed by Courtney Jones, an Opera Student at Casper College.

Following a Motion for Naturalization by Assistant U.S. Attorney David Kubicheck, Judge Skavdahl administered the Oath of Allegiance. Certificates were presented to the new citizens as Judge Skavdahl congratulated and shook hands with each of them. After a short video from Justice Sotomayor, the new citizens were given an opportunity to address all in attendance. There was nothing but smiles and happiness for their privileged induction into the body of U.S. Citizenship.

By : Ryan Deuschle



On May 26th 2017, 29 people from 15 different countries gathered for the May Special Naturalization Ceremony held in Grand Teton National Park at the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Kelly H. Rankin, Chief United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Wyoming, presided over the ceremony.

The ceremony began with the Pledge of Allegiance and The Star Spangled Banner, sung by Nicole Madison Garrett. Following a Motion for Naturalization of Petitioners by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Judge Rankin then recognized each of the 29 citizens, administered the Oath of Allegiance and presented certificates.



SIDEBAR

The Profile of a Wyoming Lawyer



Scott Klosterman

Q: Tell me about yourself? My name is Scott Klosterman and I am a partner with the law firm of Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C. I am a trial lawyer and the focus of my legal practice is in the areas of professional liability defense, oil & gas and insurance defense. My wife Ally and I have two daughters, Nichole and Sarah. When not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, fly fishing and trail running.

Q: Why did you decide to go to law school? I believed, and still believe, that obtaining a law degree gives you flexibility. Meaning that you can take a number of different career paths with a legal degree. The possibilities are many. Few professions offer such variety.

Q: What was your first job after law school? To try and find a job. No, really. My first job after law school was with the law firm of Brown, Drew, Massey & Sullivan in Casper, WY.

Q: What has been your most rewarding or significant case? The most rewarding case thus far in my career would be my representation of a physician who was sued in seven separate malpractice lawsuits. What I found most rewarding was being able to successfully defend the physician's reputation and honesty. After those cases were completed, the physician thanked me personally in front of my family, partners and staff which was very rewarding to me.

Q: What has kept you inspired and energized over the years? In the legal profession no day is like the day before. I genuinely enjoy the complexities of the law and the facts of each case. The legal profession affords you an opportunity to be creative; taking the law and facts and try to make them work for your clients.

Q: What do you like best about being a Wyoming lawyer? The ethical conduct and mutual respect from opposing counsel. In litigation, it is very infrequent that both sides go away happy. It's just the reality of the situation. As a lawyer practicing in Wyoming for the last 20 years, I have come to know a lot lawyers. It is always a good feeling to me to be able to have mutual respect for opposing counsel and be able to be cordial and even forge friendships with one another.

Q: Is there anything the Clerk's office could improve on? Not that I can think of. The Clerk's office is doing a fantastic job and is always going the extra mile to help us in making sure documents are properly filed, use of technology in the courtroom, and many other aspects of practicing law in Federal Court.

MEADOWLARK VISITS THE JOSEPH C. O'MAHONEY FEDERAL CENTER

On May 1, 2017, approximately 250 students and teachers from Meadowlark Elementary School visited the U.S. District Court - District of Wyoming. The purpose of the visit was to provide an overview of the three branches of government at work in this building and what their roles are, as the 5th grade students at Meadowlark have been studying government very hard this year.

Chief Judge Freudenthal, Judge Johnson and Chief Magistrate Judge Rankin spoke to the students about the Federal Judiciary. Judge Freudenthal discussed with the visitors who the players are in Federal Court and had the students take seats around the courtroom in the spots of the various essential players for court proceedings. Judge Johnson spoke on the history of laws and Judge Rankin explained the civil side of Federal Court.

John Green and L. Robert Murray, with the United States Attorney's Office, spoke on the Executive Branch and the role that the U.S. Attorney's Office plays. They explained in detail the case work they do with law enforcement, the grand jury process, the charging of criminal cases, working with defendants and seeing a criminal case through the trial/plea process and Sentencing. Bob Murray then had the kids take seats in various roles around the courtroom while explaining the criminal trial process to them.

Brett Kahler and Jamie Gronski from Senator John Barrasso's Office, Martha Wilson and Dianne Kirkbride from Senator Mike Enzi's Office, and Karmen Rossi from U.S. Congressman Liz Cheney's Office also participated in the event. They held a Jeopardy-like game to present on the Legislative Branch of government. They had 4 categories for the students to choose from - "Congress does what?", "House vs. Senate", "The Working Documents" and "Balance of Power". A student was called upon to select a category, then a question was posed to the entire group under that category. The student who raised their hand, was called upon and answered the question correctly was rewarded with monopoly money as their prize. Once the student gave their answer to the question, the representatives expanded on the answer with more detailed explanation.

Jon Goodman, Deputy U.S. Marshal, spoke on the history and role of the United States Marshal Service. He explained to the students how the U.S. Marshals Service is "the nation's oldest and most versatile federal law enforcement agency". He explained their beginnings and their various roles from field work through prisoner transport and the protection of Federal Judges. He ended the visit from the attendees with a walk through of the U.S. Marshal office and cell blocks.

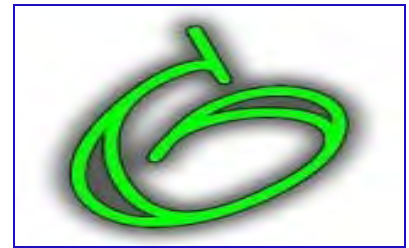
Overall, it was a very interactive, informative and fun event for all involved. The presenters had a great time with the activities done and the students seemed to have a wonderful time learning and participating.

Report by: Abby Logan
Pictures by: Eric Hardgrave





The Geekbyte2



As promised, our CM/ECF servers are now being hosted on blade servers. This puts us on the latest technology the U.S. Courts has to offer! Everything should work great for you, but if you are a Windows 10 user, we have a recommendation: please use IE11, Chrome or Firefox. Microsoft's Edge browser does not work well with CM/ECF and you will see problems if you use it. Internet Explorer 11 is still on your PC - to find it, simply type *Internet Explorer* where you ask Cortana for help (also known as the Search Windows box).